

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please see new Figure 13, submitted herewith.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification without prejudice, as follows and consider the subsequent remarks/arguments.

On page 5, please add a new paragraph [0031] as follows:

[0031] Figure 13 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Paragraph 31

As mentioned above, the present invention relates to stand-up gusseted ~~reclosable~~ packages and the method of making the same. This invention may be applied to many different types of packaging machinery, and to other processing equipment and operations. For example, the present invention may be used to produce products or other containers for holding and containing materials. Additionally, the present invention may be used in self-standing items to display advertising, or formed using vertical form fill and seal (VFFS) machines as well as horizontal form fill and seal (HFFS) machines.

Paragraph 32

Shown in Figures 1-9 and 13, is a stand-up gusseted ~~reclosable~~ bag 10. The present invention may be formed using machinery such as VFFS machinery, as shown in Figures 10-12 and discussed below.

Paragraph 37

Referring to Figures 1-3, 4A and 4B, 5 and 9, the mouth opening 22 at the top of bag 10 may be of numerous styles such as a slit, a perforation or a punched opening. The As shown, a reclosable feature may be ~~of the present invention~~ applied to close the mouth opening may be any conventional re-closing mechanism. For example, a zipper, slider, seal, Zip-Loc[®], or the like, or easy-snap technology may be utilized.

Paragraph 38

As shown in Figures 1-9, easy-snap technology 26 is a reclosable feature for packages. The Easy Snap device 26 utilizes a fold over snap feature as shown in Figures 6 and 7. The ~~easy-snap~~ EASY-SNAP technology is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,350,057, 5,983,594, 5,944,425, 5,937,615, 5,928,749 ~~and~~ 4,679,693 and U.S. Application Serial No. 10/022,423, all to Forman, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Please add a new paragraph after Paragraph 38 as follows:

Referring to Figure 13, an alternative embodiment of the present invention is shown. A stand-up bag 10 is shown without a reclosable feature at the mouth opening. A seal may be applied to the top to enclose the contents within the package.

Paragraph 50

The present invention has several advantages over existing packages in use today. Typical flat-bottom bags are required to be gusseted on the top and bottom seals. Having a gusset on the top seal adds a great deal of complexity to the addition of a reclosable feature. Multiple layers of film are folded within the seal not allowing normal reclosable features to be used, such as a zipper or slider mechanism. The present invention contemplates ~~provides~~ a reclosable feature on a gusseted stand-up bag. Moreover, the present invention requires the utilization of the special sealing jaws and gusseting manufacturing equipment for only the bottom of the package. Consequently, manufacturing time, assembly complexity and costs are greatly reduced.